THE OREDIGGER
NEWSPAPER
Volume 90, Issue 14 February 1, 2010

The Denver Harlequins come to Mines page 9

Mines alum writes from Haiti

See story and more photos on pages 6 and 7.

COURTESY ANDREW FERGUSON

City Council approves permit parking

Change will go into effect around spring break

Jeff Godwin
ASCSM At-large Community Representative

As you may have already heard, the City Council voted on January 28 to implement a parking permit system for the areas surrounding the CSM campus. What you may not have heard is that the City Council voted to implement the parking permit system shortly before or after our spring break (March 14-19). You should know that they did so over repeated requests made by Ashley Young, ASCSM Vice-President, and myself to postpone the parking management system until after the end of this semester.

The reasoning behind the Council's decision to start permit parking can be summed up as follows. First of all, the members of the Golden Historical Neighborhood Association (GHNA), led by Tom Atkins, made a compelling case about their inability to park in front of their own homes during peak campus hours. Additionally, many of the GHNA's members gave emotional testimony to the City Council about how they have unfairly shared the burden of the campus's parking problems for the past 20 years. Another argument in favor of this system, was that the Mines administration is perceived by the Council to have basically swept the parking issue under the rug many times in the past. By doing so, the Council believes that the administration has fostered a lack of trust between itself, the GHNA, City Council and other community groups. Even though we pointed out that implementing the system mid-way through the semester would basically displace hundreds of students, the Council was not swayed by the looming inconvenience to the students. Lastly, the Council repeatedly stressed that our students are intelligent, capable of adapting to other circumstances, and that they wish to see more students using alternative forms of transportation instead of cars.

Obviously, the implementation of the proposed parking management system has the potential to create a mess of the parking system. As students, we are quite clearly facing an issue of massive proportions, but please be assured that your student representatives will be working hand-in-hand with the administration in the next few weeks to ensure that parking concerns are taken care of in the short-term. In the long-term the student government will work to ensure that students are fairly represented in some pending decisions regarding long-term parking objectives for the Fall semester and the future.

We understand that many people will be upset regarding the removal of crucial parking spaces, but at this time the student government would ask that students please refrain from making brash decisions, and/or directly appealing to either the Mines Administration or the Golden City Council. If you have any concerns, please bring them to either myself (jgodwin@mines.edu) or your ASCSM student representatives.

Please be on the lookout for updates in the Oredigger, via campus wide-emails, flyers, and other channels in the coming weeks. As always, ASCSM welcomes your feedback, and you are all welcome to attend our bi-weekly meetings, the next of which is on February 11th.

Nyikos discusses tuition, Capital Construction at ASCSM

Ian Littman
Asst Business Manager for Web Content

Dr. Michael Nyikos, chair of the Mines Board of Trustees, discussed the future of Mines at Thursday's ASCSM meeting. Nyikos, whose position on the board will expire at the end of this year, explained that, while the Board of Trustees takes input from faculty and students, they are held legally responsible for the direction they choose for Mines, whether in regard to parking, finances or other large decisions.

Nyikos noted that finances, or the lack thereof, are a large issue for the current board and the campus as a whole. 2010 capital expenditures must come from either alumni donations or the Capital Construction Fee assessed to students each semester. Two donations of the former nature surpassed $10 million; one of them will be used to finance Marquez Hall. The latter funding source is what made the Brown Hall addition possible.

Nyikos then explained Mines's relationship with the state, specifically with regard to the campus becoming something similar to a "Public Authority Institution," like Penn State, among other universities. Mines can't go private; "The state's not going to give away a $500 million asset," Nyikos said. However each year Mines becomes more independent of the state, though unfortunately this independence translates into financial issues and tuition increases. Tuition will increase by 9% for in-state students and 5% for out-of-state students for the 2010-2011 academic year, and the gap between in-state and out-of-state tuition will continue to close as time goes on, since the real costs per student aren't any different. Nyikos stated that real costs per semester for a Mines undergraduate are currently $18,860 per semester.

One point of contention between Mines and the state of Colorado is the number of credit hours in a degree. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education, or CCHE, is pushing for uniformity of degree programs, with 120 credit hours as the goal for all undergraduate degrees. Mines was able to overturn the CCHE's attempt to legislate this limit. Nyikos stated that the length of degree programs will stay in the hands of Mines faculty.

Nyikos continued to lament the bureaucracy imposed on higher education by the state, describing the six committees constructed to study the situation as "politicized beyond sense."

ASCSM Faculty Advisor Derek Morgan then took the floor, encouraging Mines students to fill out the 2010 national census survey and noted that college students are not counted on parents' census surveys. He also noted that students can donate textbooks for the Haiti relive effort; proceeds of sold textbooks go to aid organizations working in the country.

The Feburary 11 ASCSM meeting will also include a presentation from Aramark's Senior Director of Sustainability on how to hold a sustainable club or organization event at Mines.

Announcements at the end of the meeting included a remainder that Legislature Day is this Thursday, February 4th at the Colorado History Museum from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm. The event, which will include food, is designed to showcase student organizations from CSM to members of the state legislature. An e-mail with further details is forthcoming.

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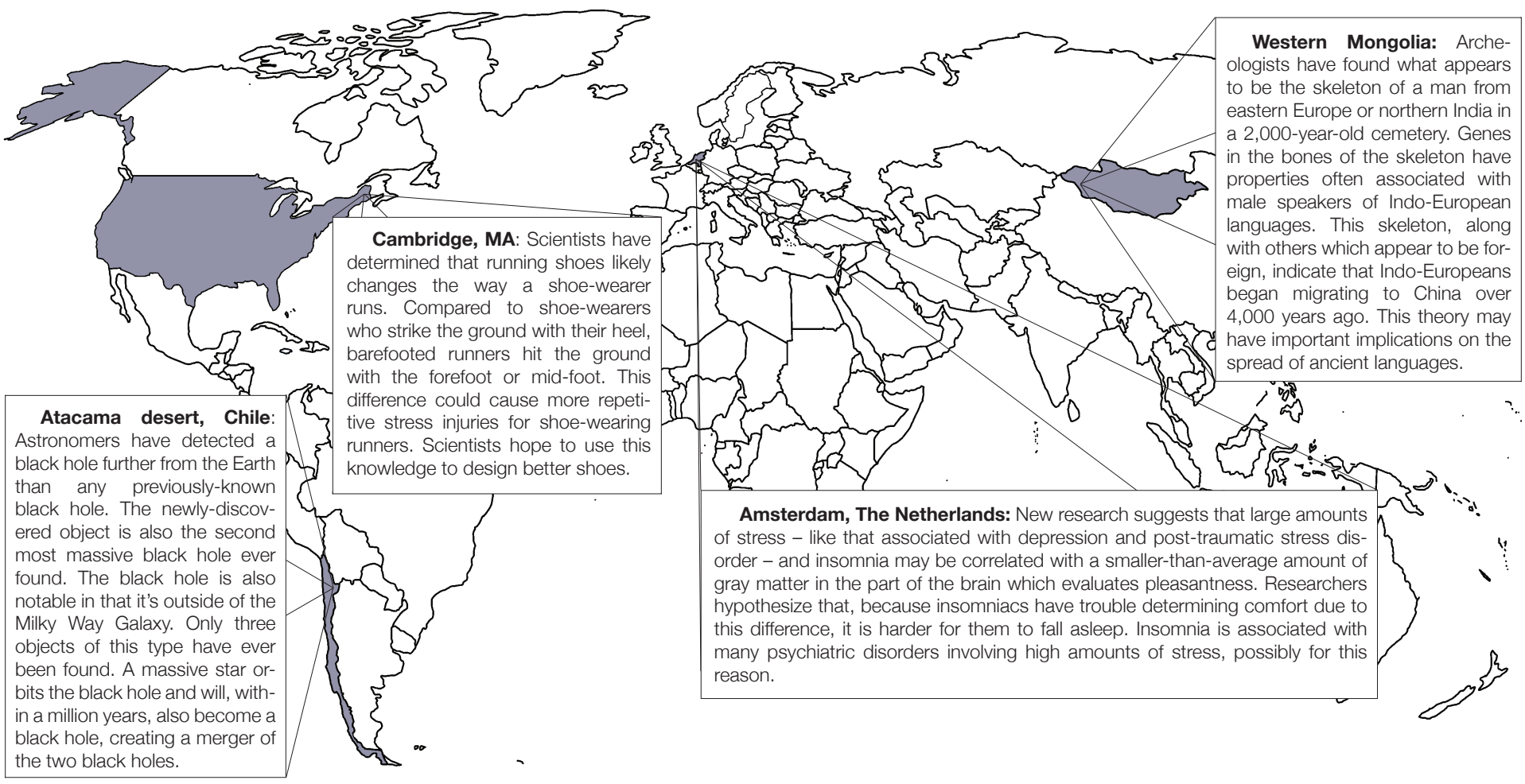
Scientific discoveries this week

Jake Rezac, Content Manager



Cambridge, MA: Scientists have determined that running shoes likely changes the way a shoe-wearer runs. Compared to shoe-wearers who strike the ground with their heel, barefooted runners hit the ground with the forefoot or mid-foot. This difference could cause more repetitive stress injuries for shoe-wearing runners. Scientists hope to use this knowledge to design better shoes.

Western Mongolia: Archeologists have found what appears to be the skeleton of a man from eastern Europe or northern India in a 2,000-year-old cemetery. Genes in the bones of the skeleton have properties often associated with male speakers of Indo-European languages. This skeleton, along with others which appear to be foreign, indicate that Indo-Europeans began migrating to China over 4,000 years ago. This theory may have important implications on the spread of ancient languages.

Atacama desert, Chile: Astronomers have detected a black hole further from the Earth than any previously-known black hole. The newly-discovered object is also the second most massive black hole ever found. The black hole is also notable in that it's outside of the Milky Way Galaxy. Only three objects of this type have ever been found. A massive star orbits the black hole and will, within a million years, also become a black hole, creating a merger of the two black holes.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands: New research suggests that large amounts of stress – like that associated with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder – and insomnia may be correlated with a smaller-than-average amount of gray matter in the part of the brain which evaluates pleasantness. Researchers hypothesize that, because insomniacs have trouble determining comfort due to this difference, it is harder for them to fall asleep. Insomnia is associated with many psychiatric disorders involving high amounts of stress, possibly for this reason.

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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated $10 billion over the next 10 years towards buying vaccines for the world's poorest countries. This is reported as the single largest donation to one cause to ever be pledged. The Gates Foundation is the United States largest philanthropy, with $34 billion in assets.

Ojore Nuru Lutalo, 64, was arrested on an Amtrack train traveling from Los Angeles to Chicago after talking about terrorist threats during a cell phone call. Lutalo was recently released from prison, and is now free in Denver on a $30,000 bond.

The Commerce Department reported that the United States **economy grew 5.7%** in the fourth quarter of 2009; the fastest since 2003. This good news was an optimistic end to a dismal year, as the economy declined an overall 2.7% in 2009, the first annual decline since 1991.

J.D. Salinger, author of the famed novel "Catcher in the Rye," died at the age of 91.

A new study conducted by the **Highway Loss Data Institute** found that the banning of cell phones and other hand held electronics while driving has not decreased the amount of vehicle crashes. Nineteen states have a ban on texting while driving, and six states ban talking on cell phones while driving.

Darlene Etienne, 16, was pulled from the rubble of a building after 15 days of being trapped after the **earthquake in Haiti** that killed an estimated 200,000 people. Etienne has been given a 90% chance of survival, is stable and is able to eat soft foods, which has astonished doctors.

Police at Rutgers University suspended the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority after charging 6 of its member with **hazing**. Police say the girls paddled and denied prospective pledges food. The girls have been charged with aggravated hazing but are free on a $1,500 bail.

Toyota announced a **recall** of 75,000 sport utility vehicles with potential accelerator problems, as part of a worldwide recall of 5.3 million vehicles over the past year.

South African President Jacob Zuma defended his right to have three wives after he was criticized by the World Economic Forum. **Polygamy** is legal in South Africa, though a highly debated practice. Zuma married his third wife, Tobeka Madiba, in early January, and argues that his personal choices do not affect his abilities as a political leader.

President Obama announced a plan to invest $8 billion for a nation-wide **high speed train** system, funded through the government stimulus package. The projects will take place in 31 U.S. States, with the hope of creating jobs.

Local News

Mines police attempted to stop a Dodge Neon last Wednesday after a report of suspicious activity. An email from Keith Turney, Chief of Police, was sent out on Thursday with more information.

Mines' wrestling claimed 14 top-six finishes in the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Open, including 1 first place, 4 second place and one third place finish.

Mines' Women's Basketball team beat Regis University 78-74, improving their record to 13-6 overall.

Mines' Men's Basketball team are on a four-game winning streak with an 84-73 victory over Regis University.

Colorado School of Mines' Jesse Dennis and Sarah Moore both earned RMAC Diver of the Week honors while Kevin Shaw was selected as the RMAC Men's Swimmer of the Week

NASA Student Ambassadors were recently announces, including two Mines students, Kennda Lynch, a Mines graduate student and Luke Richards, an undergraduate.

Faculty spotlight: Dr. Patrick Kohl

Trevor Crane
Staff Writer

Nearly every student must endure a rigorous semester of Physics 200 here at Mines. It is one of the few commonalities shared as a student body. Trying to make sense of the class for many undergraduates can be likened to trying to understand why some people go to a liberal arts college. It just does not compute.

This is where Dr. Patrick Kohl enters; a brilliant man with the unreal task of making sense out of electricity and magnetism.

Dr. Kohl spent most his early years growing up under the influence of a military father. As a result, Kohl spent many years traveling the country before briefly settling down in eastern Washington as a teen.

The next destination for the physics teacher was Western Washington University. When deciding to pursue a physics major, Kohl laughed that, "[Being a physics major] was something I settled on when I was too young to know what I was doing." However, he admitted, "Physics is just a lot of fun, learning the fundamentals of the world around us and how everything works."

TREVOR CRANE / OREDIGGER

As for teaching at Mines, Dr. Kohl explained it as the next logical step after obtaining his PhD at CU-Boulder. "It just kind of evolved. Like many students, I thought I would get into the industry." However, industry was not calling the young physicist. Instead, Mines offered him a job he just could not turn down. "I was impressed with the quality of students here. They are really motivated and are very interesting people." He then joked that, "It is a bunch of nerds, but in a good way."

But as for his favorite part, Kohl simply said that "there is really nothing bad about it." He hopes that students realize how well they have it here. If he were a student at Mines, he expects that he would be excited to be in a place where the focus is on what he likes to do, especially as opposed to other campuses, which cultivate a more cutthroat environment.

We all have some nerdy part of us, a part of math or science that we think is just the coolest thing we have ever seen. As for Dr. Kohl, he studied his favorite part as a graduate project involving ultra-fast lasers. His work involved the study of the lasers, their colors, and speeds. "Lasers are just fun. And [the ultra-fast lasers] are quirky, interesting little beasts."

> His work involved the study of the lasers, their colors, and speeds. "Lasers are just fun. And [the ultra-fast lasers] are quirky, interesting little beasts."

Dr. Kohl's influence at the Colorado School of Mines goes beyond teaching Physics 200. He is involved in an educationally-focused research group. He studies the influences and techniques that provide the best learning experience for students. While not directly linked to the LON-CAPA system, Kohl likes how the system implements the homework for the class. "If you force students to do their homework, they actually do better," he commented. Studies show that this method helps students better than the traditional classroom that leaves the repetition and homework up to the student, which leaves them with little structure or framework in trying to learn a difficult curriculum.

> "...and an enjoyment of pet rabbits, which he described as being 'very cute, they are like 16-year-olds, except that they don't burn the house down.'"

Outside of Mines, Professor Kohl lives at home with his wife. Other hobbies include a love for the outdoors of Colorado and an enjoyment of pet rabbits, which he described as being "very cute, they are like 16-year-olds, except that they don't burn the house down."

Dr. Kohl did not think any of his own experiences during college would be very appropriate for a school newspaper.

But, as for advice for current college students he concluded, "I know it is a cliché, but take advantage of this opportunity. You'll never have an opportunity like this again."

Geek of the Week

...Stephen Bartels, Sophomore; Civil Engineering

Daniel Haughey
Staff Writer

Do you consider yourself a geek?

Yes, of course I consider myself a geek... but not in any standard geek mold.

How did you come to be at Mines?

I applied and was accepted at three schools: Rensselaer, Rose-Holeman, and here. I had grown up here and Ohio kinda blows. Need I say more?

What is your favorite geeky pick up line?

Can't say I've used many, but Ich grethe Þae, maec Cwen. "I greet you, my queen" in old English.

What is the geekiest thing you have seen or done?

The geekiest thing would have to be a pulley system to move blocks and electrolysis to breathe in a Dungeons and Dragons game.

What is your favorite geek joke?

"You'd better be prepared for the jump into hyperspace, it's unpleasantly like being drunk." "What's so unpleasant about being drunk?" "Ask a glass of water." -Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Star Wars or Star Trek? Why?

Star Trek. Scottish engineers are amazing.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies would be rock climbing, mountain biking, Dungeons and Dragons, World of Warcraft, Ultimate Frisbee, Halo, reading, and music.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

That would be an autographed picture of Chuck Yaeger.

***The* Chuck Yeager, who first broke the sound barrier?**

Yes, in the "Glamorous Glennis."

What has been your favorite class at Mines?

Hmmm, my favorite class is Statics.

Dear god why?

I love statics, it comes naturally. I had the best professor who is no longer here.

Who?

Gared Dean.

What is your favorite piece of technology?

iPod, for sure.

What is your favorite movie?

Equilibrium. It's like 1984 meets the Matrix. Really hard for me to decide since I watch a lot of movies, but it has Christian Bale in it.

COURTESY STEPHEN BARTELS

What is your favorite book?

So very many... how about *Beyond the Summerland* by LB Graham.

What clubs or activities are you involved in?

Club Ultimate, RP club, Board and Gaming Club, Campus Crusade for Christ, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, ASCE, and SWE.

Who is your role model and why?

Role model is fairly easy- Isaac Newton for a few reasons, but mainly he was a great leader, very devout Christian and still brilliant.

What is your favorite OS? Why?

Windoze 7. Ease of use. I would use Linux if more were written for it, due to stability. But I have more of a favorite type of laptop.

Ok, then. How about your favorite laptop brand?

Lenovo, they are indestructible and have an ungodly battery life. Also I got a great deal [wink wink].

What is your favorite formula and why?

Pythagorean Theorem, because of the Chinese proof, not the stupid Saxon proof...

If you were stuck on a deserted island and you could only bring 3 items, what would they be?

Knife, iPod with infinite battery, and my hat.

If you were to come up with a class for CSM what would it be?

Comparative Analysis and Practicality of Science Fiction Series/ Movies.

If you could be anyone else, who would you be?

I like being me, I don't want to be anyone else.

What is one thing you love at Mines? One thing you would like to see changed?

The locale. I love the mountains being so accessible. As for change, more residence halls would be nice.

Art of science

ERIK LORD / OREDIGGER

Image: Downtown Chicago

"There are two kinds of truth; the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Without art, science would be as useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science, art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery." - Raymond Chandler

A taste of Russia

Erik Lord
Staff Writer

The upper floor of Stratton Hall was packed with a wide diversity of faces on Wednesday morning. All in attendance were smiling for the monthly International Tea & Coffee Hour.

As expected, the tea and coffee were fresh and hot. However, the real treat for students and faculty alike was the homemade dishes prepared by hosts Anna Fedoseeva and Vasilisa Nekhorosheva, graduate students from Russia. To sweeten the experience even further, Anna and Vasilisa shared stories of their homeland.

Anna, who is from the city of Volgograd in the southwest region of Russia, came to the Colorado School of Mines to enter the Master of International Political Economy of Resources (MIPER) program. This unique program focuses on the interplay of the world's political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental systems. "I like our program because we have students from Africa, Asia, [and] Europe," Anna explained. "I am the only student from Russia, and it's so great to have perspectives from so many other nations." The program also has the advantage of being quite small, with just 27 students currently enrolled. "We have a small building, fewer faculty, and very few students," she explained. "And it's better because we have time to get to know each other better and share our many different perspectives."

ERIK LORD / OREDIGGER

While Colorado is far from Russia, the adjustment to life here was not a difficult one for Anna, who had previously been to the United States for an internship. "I like hiking and skiing, so I love this area. I feel like I came to the right place."

Vasilisa, who came from Moscow, is a Masters student in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, conducting research focused on Petroleum Geology. "When I came to attend the international student orientation I had never been to America before, but everyone was so helpful. I felt very welcome from the beginning." The only major adjustment she felt she had to make was to change her name. "'Vasilisa' is so hard to pronounce [for those who don't speak Russian], so now I just go by 'Lisa,'" she said. Armed with a more comfortable name, Lisa has had no problem adjusting to life in Colorado. "I like skiing, and Moscow is so very flat. Here we are so close to the mountains. I was very excited about it." Lisa joined the CSM Ski Team last semester, and competed in her first ski race last weekend.

ERIK LORD / OREDIGGER

The food is often the best part of the International Tea & Coffee Hour, and Wednesday was no exception. Anna prepared a traditional Russian dessert, called Napolean cake, which was a delicious layered pastry. "It reminds me so much of my childhood," she grinned. "This is something we would eat frequently, especially at birthday parties." Lisa worked alongside Anna the night before in preparing the Russian dishes. She made blinis, which are a heavy pancake, usually filled with fruit or meat. The blinis she made were filled with seasoned lamb meat, and were very tasty.

International students comprise a large percentage of the student body of the School of Mines and there are many things to be learned from them. The monthly International Tea & Coffee Hour, scheduled for the last Wednesday of every month, is a terrific opportunity for students to hear about, and even get a taste of, another culture.

InterVarsity hosts Christian panel

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

This Tuesday, February 2, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will be hosting God Answers in Metals Hall at 7:30 PM. This is a pioneer event on the Mines campus where four or five qualified religious voices will sit on a panel and answer related questions from the crowd. The goal of the event is to draw in a diverse group of people who are ready to witness or participate in a relaxed and enjoyable conversation about God.

"We're trying to create an environment that is non-confrontational and welcoming to everyone," said Katie Mills, a senior leader of InterVarsity. "We want everybody to feel comfortable and have fun. There's definitely no pressure."

The evening will kick off with a brief and light-hearted five minute presentation of the Gospel so everyone starts on the same page. There will be an opportunity for students to stand up and inquire the panel directly, or question may be turned in anonymously. There will be a table accepting hand written questions in the Student Center from 10 AM - 2 PM on Tuesday, or they may be submitted online at godanswers.ivcf@gmail.com.

"We really want to give students an opportunity to engage in a conversation about God, Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity in general," commented Will Kuhlman, another member of InterVarsity who originally had the idea for the event. He added, "No question is off limits. We just want everybody to have the chance to make an informed and thoughtful decision about what it means to follow Jesus."

Among the panel of religious authorities will be Tim Gabrielson, a Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church in Golden, and Ryan Rowlette, an InterVarsity staff member and Pastor of the Arvada hub of the Denver Vineyard.

"There will be opportunities afterward to follow up and ask questions through different GIGS [Groups Investigating God] on campus," said Kuhlman. There will be more information about with whom to get in contact with at the event.

There will be snacks and beverages provided. The other Christian groups on campus - Cru, FCA, and Focus - are also supporting the event.

In anticipation of the night, college ministry enthusiast Ryan Rowlette passionately posited, "Wouldn't it be incredible if the Holy Spirit showed up on the Mines campus? And no matter what you believe, wouldn't you want to say that you had been there?"

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TECH BREAK

iPad: Overhyped, but still pretty good

Ian Litman
Tech Break Columnist

On Wednesday, Apple finally introduced their extremely-hyped and long-rumored tablet that everyone seems to want - the iPad. Granted, the name is a little silly, but it describes the device's lineage (the iPod touch), and lets you know there's more.

So what differentiates the iPad from the iTouch other than a trifecta of Benjamins? In four words, speed, size, battery life. Surprisingly, all three of these attributes (even the last one) have increased thanks to a custom-designed System-on-a-Chip named the Apple A4. The chip, which runs at 1GHz, owes its smarts to Apple's 2008 purchase of chipmaker P.A. Semi. The chip gives the iPad the speed to run its UI with typical Apple fluidity and the stamina to survive ten hours on a charge. Of course, the 9.7-inch 1024x768 LED-backlit display and 25-watt-hour Lithium Polymer battery help as well, but you do not see any mobile device-makers creating processors for a single product solely in the name of absurd performance and battery life.

One huge thing to note with the iPad is that it is an overgrown iPod rather than an underpowered notebook. This approach, so far, has not been attempted by any major manufacturer. However, other "web tablet" devices will be released around the same time as the iPad, which is slated for an initial launch 60 days from the 27. A big draw on this approach is that the iPad gets the full iPhone software portfolio, though the difference between a 480x320 display and a 768x1024 one may cause problems here. The other plus is that application developers, of which there are plenty, are working from the perspective of a mobile device rather than bolting on functionality to something that would normally run on a laptop.

The disadvantages, however, are rather stark. With the iPad, Apple is expanding their hardware portfolio upward with a closed system (the iTunes/App Store model) which propagates a disturbing precedent. Just how much of your $500 (or $600 or $830) device do you own, and how much does Apple take for its own? That said, Apple has adopted this system in the name of stability, and so far its products have been rock-solid on the software front. On the other hand, the iPad does not even have multitasking; no picture-in-picture video streaming while e-mailing or listening to Pandora while composing a document in the excellent Pages for iPad application. But if some multitasking is allowed, where does the line get placed between increased functionality and decreased reliability?

Going back to the specifications, the 1.5-pound iPad has 3G, if you're willing to pay $130 extra for the hardware. At this point Apple is saying the device, which by default runs on AT&T's network but is unlocked for use with other GSM/HSPA providers, does not do voice. However, the iPad has a microphone, speaker, and headphone jack. Combined with VoIP apps available for the iPhone, the possibility for Voice over Internet Protocol is technically there.

One great thing about the AT&T network is that Apple has convinced AT&T to offer data plans for the device with no contract and at half the price of what a PC data card would cost. It's $15 per month for a 250MB data block, $30 for a month of unlimited data. There is no voice plan required because the iPad does not do voice, though some might rather have a contract than a $130 bump in the price of the device. It is unfortunate that the iPad 3G edition, which will be released in late April, will not be compatible with T-Mobile's 3G service in the US due to different frequencies used (and Verizon/Sprint's 3G networks due to the overall technology) but at least you will be able to take the iPad overseas without being locked into expensive data roaming with AT&T. That said, the iPad will use a GSM microSIM rather than a standard-sized SIM chip. Thus, you either need to get a special SIM card from your carrier of choice or be very precise with a pair of scissors to cut an existing SIM down to size.

All that said, the shining feature of the iPad is the software and accessory ecosystem that is already showing promise and can only go up from here. According to Apple the iPad is the perfect size for books and magazines (via their new iBooks store), newspapers, web surfing, e-mail, YouTubing, and even full-length video-watching (via iTunes). On the application side, game-makers and productivity programmers alike appear to be dying to develop for the iPad just as much as for the iPhone, and the applications shown at the unveiling Wednesday were somewhere between great and phenomenal.

On the accessory side, the iPad will launch with five Apple-branded accessories, with the usual slew of third-party devices naturally following. Among them are a case with a built in stand for tabletop video viewing, a dock with a built-in keyboard and an SD card reader for pulling photos from digital cameras and displaying them on the iPad's luscious screen.

Will the iPad become another Newton, discarded as something in-between what everyone wanted? Will another version come out with additional features such as Verizon Wireless support, single or dual cameras for video conferencing, or multitasking, to the chagrin of early adopters? Only time will tell, but Apple has hit the ground rolling, and possibly running, with this "tweener" device. If their bet is right and there really is a marketable space between smartphone and notebook, they have certainly got the execution side down.

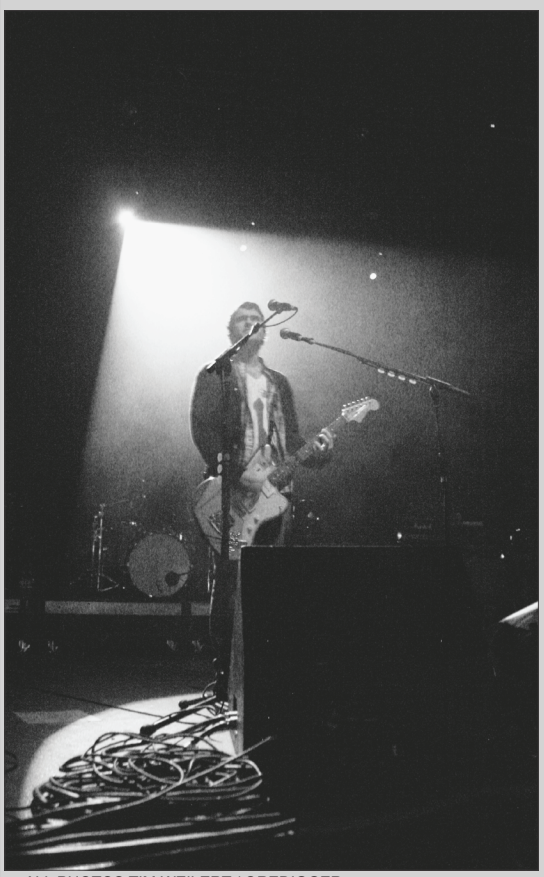
Brand New provides another great live show

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Long Island-based Brand New is one of those groups that cannot be easily described in words or photos. Rather than simply putting on a concert, a Brand New show is more of a full-body experience. Hardcore fans scream every lyric as they push and claw their way to be near the stage. The music pounding out of the speakers is not quite the same as the emo-tinged anthems of years gone by, it is more raw, it is more free, it is brand new.

With their newest record, Daisy, Brand New toured the U.S. this past fall with the support of Atlanta-based Manchester Orchestra. Unfortunately for concertgoers in Salt Lake City and Denver, those dates were postponed due to illness. Saturday night, nearly four months after the original date, Brand New returned to Denver.

The momentum of the evening really began to pick up when Manchester Orchestra took the stage. For a brief moment, I thought I had been transported back to the early 90's, to a Nirvana concert. However, the lyrics I heard were not reminiscent of nihilistic teenage angst, but rather turned out to be deep and thought-provoking. "Where Have You Been" is always the highlight of a M.O. set, and that night's performance was no exception. Toward the end of the song (on the big build-up part) they had 4 drummers going simultaneously; it was a sight to see and a sound to (literally) feel.



ALL PHOTOS TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

I was unsure what to expect from Brand New. This particular show was my third time seeing them, and I anticipated they would play heavily from Daisy. Much to my surprise, front-man Jesse Lacey started the set with "Soco Amaretto Lime," a soft number from 2001's Your Favorite Weapon.

From then on they pulled out all the stops. With each song the crowd never appeared to grow weary despite singing/yelling along and a generous amount of "rocking out." Highlights included "Sic Transit Gloria (Glory Fades)" going straight in to "The Quiet Things That No One Ever Knows" and set closers "Jude Law and a Semester Abroad" and "Seventy Times 7."

Looking back on the night as a whole I can say confidently that this was the best performance I have seen from Brand New. While they did showcase quite a bit of their new material ("Vices" was my personal favorite from that bunch), the group stayed true to their roots and fan base. For anyone who is unfamiliar with Brand New, go out and listen to 2003's Deja Entendu, the record that introduced me to their unique style and caused me to fall in love with their live set.

> I can say confidently that this was the best performance I have seen from Brand New.

Anything but Common

Beautiful Empty from John Common & BfoL

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Empty beds. This was the first thing I noticed about Beautiful Empty when it came in the mail. The album art depicts beds: empty, slept in, sheets all askew. As the opening track "Can You Hear Me" began to roll out of my desktop speakers, dreamy sounds and words filled my ears. John Common begins by taking stock of the situation. "Woke up alone, where'd you go?" he asks. His bed is empty, it is a strange beauty. Beautiful… empty.

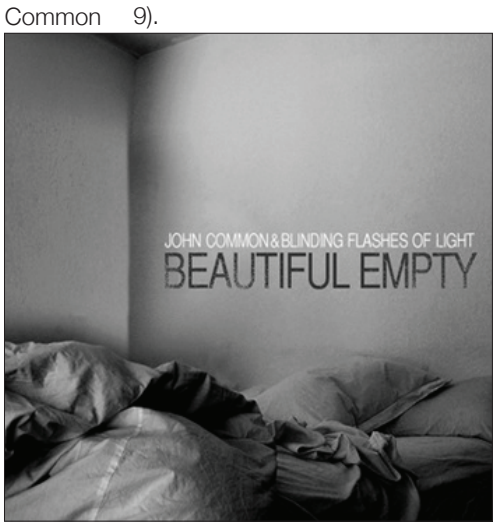
Before diving headlong into a full review of the debut album from John Common & Blinding Flashes of Light, a little background might be useful. John Common is one of those characters on the Denver music scene who appears restless. His previous projects are numerous and varied; from art and film exhibits to a kazoo orchestra, Common has always been dabbling in one thing or another. When he set to work creating Beautiful Empty, he decided to not just go alone, but instead gathered a top-notch band to see the vision through.

The result is a stunning collection of songs. Beautiful Empty is split into two parts, "Side A" and "Side B" (maybe someday it will be released on vinyl?), each with a unique flavor. "Good Heart" is a simple piano ballad from the first half of the record that displays a beautiful simplicity, while "In My Neighborhood" is a sunny number that takes full advantage of the unique sound of a Rhodes keyboard.

On the B-side there's "Love Is A Shark." I still don't quite know what to think about this song. On one hand it is the kind of metaphor that makes me smile, but on the other hand it is one of the oddest comparisons I've ever heard.

"Thinking 'bout God" closes the record out with a reflective song that ebbs and flows with piano, strings, and keyboards. It is the kind of song that I can imagine as a slow-dance that plays off into the night.

Beautiful Empty is available digitally on iTunes, physically at Twist & Shout, and on CDbaby.com (where $2 from each record sale will go to relief efforts in Haiti until February 9).



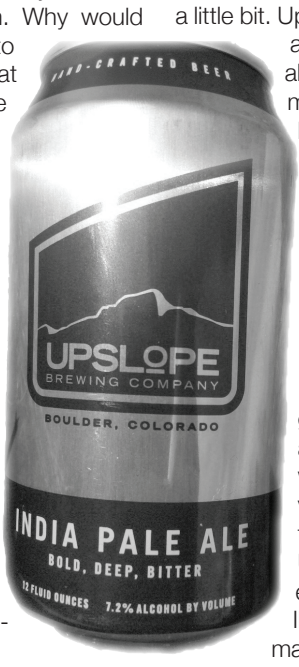
TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

Upslope finds niche

Kevin Lock
Staff Writer

Upslope Brewery out of Boulder has found a niche in the ever-expanding and extremely competitive microbrew market of Colorado. The state is home to more than 80 different microbreweries, all with their own twists on beer. Boulder alone supports ten of them, not including Upslope Brewery, according to Beer101.com. Why would anyone try to go into a business market that already seems to be so saturated with businesses? They could have gone to a different city, right?

Upslope packages all of its beers in cans so that their product is easily transported, which fits their slogan, "Good beer in a can for an active lifestyle." The only other microbrewery I know which also puts their beers in cans, for a similar reason is Oskar Blues.



KEVIN LOCK / OREDIGGER

After a long day on the trail or skiing, I generally look forward to a refreshing, flavorful beer. By canning, rather than bottling, Upslope has done something quirky that I appreciate. "The flavor and anticipation makes it worth carrying them in and out but the crushability and weight makes it worth carrying the second," stated one taster. The brewers at Upslope felt that they had a unique enough product that they would be able to succeed, and after trying one of their two brews I would say that they have it right.

This week I sampled the India Pale Ale, they also brew a Pale Ale which was named "The Best Pale Ale" by Maxim Magazine. The IPA has a dark brown color and a healthy amount of carbonation. With a lively mouth feel and zesty character, this IPA breaks the mold a little bit. Upslope was able to create a more approachable IPA by keeping the malty character of the beer strong while not losing the fruitiness of the hops. This beer is marketed as, "Bold, deep, bitter" and I would have to agree, this brew has more character than many of the IPAs I have tried. Odell's IPA has gained a reputation among many as a beer with exceptional flavor that is spot on for fruity IPAs. However, Upslope took a different direction with their IPA which has a darker, maltier flavor. This gives Upslope's IPA more balance than most IPAs.

After a long day and a few of these brews all that my fellow taster was able to say was, "Bold, deep, bitter and pretty damn good!"

To learn more about Upslope Brewing Company, I take a look at upslopebrewing.wordpress.com; where you can see many different articles about the company and their mission.

A mission trip to Haiti in 14 days

Andrew Ferguson
Guest Columnist

Writer's warning: this article acknowledges the existence of God.

For those who aren't majoring in History, here's the quick introduction to Haiti, courtesy of the CIA World Factbook:

"In the early 17th century, the French established a presence on Hispaniola. In 1697, Spain ceded to the French the western third of the island, which later became Haiti. The French colony, based on forestry and sugar-related industries, became one of the wealthiest in the Caribbean but only through the heavy importation of African slaves and considerable environmental degradation. In the late 18th century, Haiti's nearly half million slaves revolted under Toussaint L'ouverture. After a prolonged struggle, Haiti became the first black republic to declare independence in 1804. The poorest country [and also perceived as the most corrupt] in the Western Hemisphere , Haiti has been plagued by political violence for most of its history. After an armed rebellion led to the forced resignation and exile of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004, an interim government took office to organize new elections under the auspices of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Continued violence and technical delays prompted repeated postponements, but Haiti finally did inaugurate a democratically elected president and parliament in May of 2006." (https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index)

My involvement with Haiti is a rather curious one. Last spring, I was looking for a summer mission trip that would be able to use to my skills as an engineer. Although I pursued several different avenues, I didn't find anything that struck a chord with me. Excuses will always be prevalent, especially in today's society. Through an interesting set of short conversations with a variety of people over the fall, I decided that it's high time; I let my "religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair." (G. K. Chesterton)

So there it was.

I left for Haiti on January 8th. It was an arduous journey to get there (or so I thought), leaving in the early morning from Seattle, flying to Chicago, and then to Miami. Miami only offered a short reprieve (I think we spent more time trying to get to our hotel rooms than we did in them) before we had to be back at Miami's International Airport to catch our flight to Haiti. We landed in Port-au-Prince easily enough and then shuffled over to the regional airport (which shares the same tarmac and runway) where we caught our 45-minute flight to Port-de-Paix. An hour's drive by Toyota Land Cruiser (albeit at 10km/hr) and we found ourselves in Passe Catabois.

I was with a group of twelve, myself included. We are all part of Convergence, the young adult group (20's and 30's) from University Presbyterian Church. We range in age from 23 to 35 and only one of us is married. Our vocations range from engineer to office assistant and everything in between. Our mission was to serve with long term missionaries Bruce and Deb Robinson, working on projects they planned, primarily construction and electrical, at a school/church located 30 minutes away in the town of Foison.

Unfortunately, the first few days we were in Haiti, it was raining and the roads, while technically drivable, were not ideal. Thus, we had a change of plans, and our first of many lessons in being flexible. We ended up doing some small jobs around Bruce's workshop, sorting bolts, running electrical wire, fixing wheelbarrows, and playing with the local kids, among other things.

Tuesday, we were still at the workshop, letting the roads dry out. At 4:47 PM, we felt a rolling. Everyone looked at each other, mostly in confusion. A few seconds later, more rolling. Almost out of instinct, those that were inside headed to the door ways. I was at the front door and decided that the best place, given the lackluster building codes, would be outside.

Bruce had mentioned that Haiti was home to frequent tremors, and we all thought this was just that. It would be another two hours before we learned of the actual devastation. The word came over dinner: Port-au-Prince had been hit by a huge earthquake, at least 7.0. Everything was flat.

Everyone was shocked; I hadn't even once considered that the epicenter could be Port-au-Prince.

There are a lot of questions about what can be done for Haiti. The first thing I tell everyone is to pray; I don't care what your religion is or even if you're an atheist or agnostic. Everyone should pray for the people of Haiti. Second, get out your checkbook and write a check. Send it to a reputable organization, such as the American Red Cross, World Concern, Yele Haiti, or UNICEF. There are several reputable organizations, and many can be found at http://www.google.com/relief/haitiearthquake/. If you're currently working, you might also ask if your company does matching donations. You can also use your cell phone to make a donation, for example, by texting "HAITI" to 90999 to donate $10 to Red Cross relief efforts. Third, almost as important is what not to do. Do not start a food drive or a clothing drive or donate anything "in-kind." While your intentions are well meaning, you need to understand the additional cost of collecting, sorting, cleaning, packaging, shipping, and distributing. Donating money means they can get relief to the Haitians now; anything else will take weeks at best, perhaps months to get to their final destination. Also, unless you speak Creole and have extensive experience in disaster relief, don't plan on heading down to Haiti to help out right now. Wait for a couple of months, then coordinate with a church group or other organization to help the rebuilding process. This catastrophe isn't going to go away overnight and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to help in the future.

Andrew Ferguson is a 2009 Engineering - Electrical Specialty graduate of the Colorado School of Mines. He blogs regularly at http://AndrewFerguson.net, where you can also read more and see additional pictures about his adventure in Haiti.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ANDREW FERGUSON

Above, Haitians get a ride in the back of a pickup truck near Passe Catabois, Haiti on the morning of January 12, 2010.

Above, Bruce's workshop in Passe Catabois, Haiti on January 11, 2010.

Above, Megan Simmons, Bruce Robinson, Amber Evanson, Carly Delavan, JoEllen Wang, Wes Lauer, Erica Hanson, Jon Mullins, and Brock Fehler take a short rest half an hour outside of Port-de-Paix, Haiti on January 10, 2010.

Above, Carly Delavan plays with two Haitian children in Pass Catabois, Haiti.

Above, A motor cyclist with a passenger rides past a convenience store in Port-de-Paix.

Above, a motor cyclist with a passenger attempts to navigate the dirt roads outside of Port-de-Paix, Haiti on January 10, 2010.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ANDREW FERGUSON

Above, Brock Fehler, Alex Suk, Amber Evanson (background), and Stew Bowerman at Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince , Haiti.

Above, Bruce's workshop in Passe Catabois, Haiti.

Above, Brock Fehler and Stew Bowerman sort bolts in Passe Catabois, Haiti on January 11, 2010.

Orediggers devastate Roadrunners

Trevor Crane
Staff Writer

Freshmen played like three-year veterans, bench players played like starters, and starters made big shots when it counted. What's that add up to? Mines came into downtown Denver on Friday night and stunned the nationally-ranked #20 Roadrunners, 67-65.

Freshman Brett Green led the Orediggers in scoring with 17 points, behind 6-10 from the field to continue a promising career for the young guard. But it was a complete team effort as Sean Armstrong added 12 points and 7 assists, Drew Hoffman contributed a solid three-point threat with his 13 points, and Levi Hamilton provided a surprising spark from the bench with 10 points and a strong presence inside. The Orediggers calmly dissected the Roadrunner's full court press and made timely baskets to stay within striking distance throughout the night. Solid defense and tough post play by Hamilton and Dale Minschwaner held Metro State's big men at bay. Mines held a Metro State team that was averaging nearly 80 points per game to only 65.

Metro State Guard Donte Nicholas netted a game-high 28 points and teammate Brain Minor added 18 in the losing effort as the Roadrunners gave up an 8 point second half lead and fell for only the third time this season.

After a 10-2 run by Mines to tie the game at 47, an electric inbounds dunk by the Roadrunners' Reggie Evans seemed to revive Metro State and shut the door on Mines.

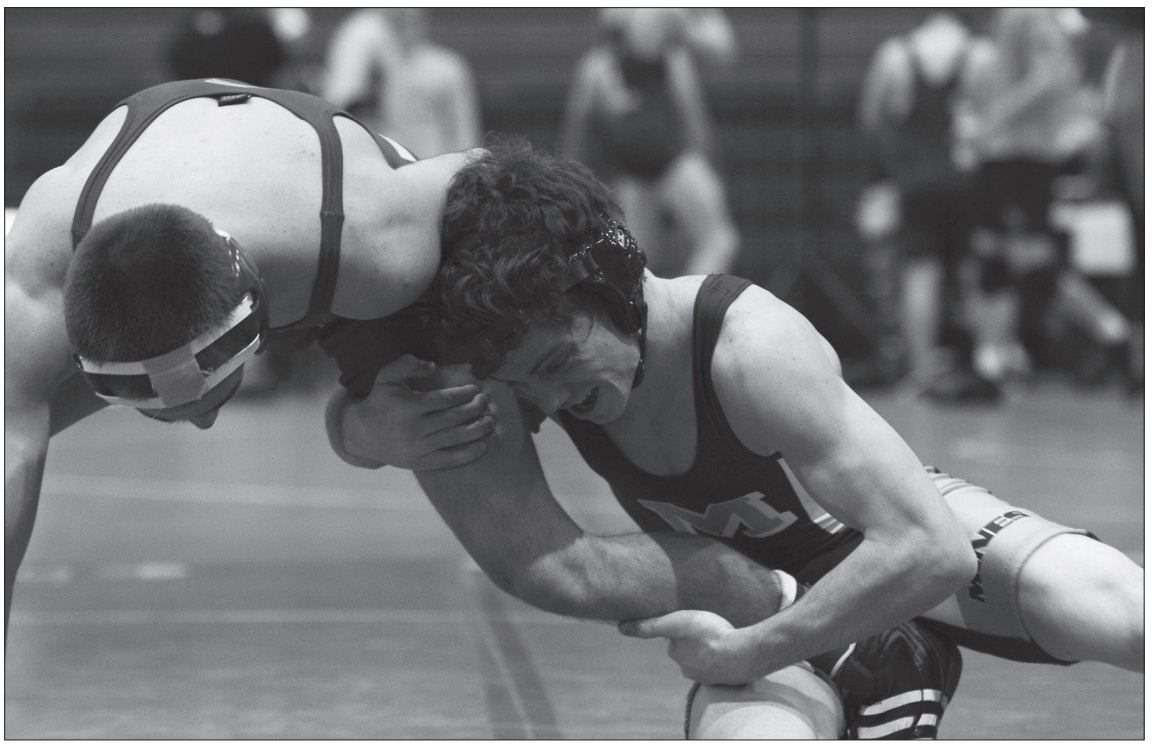
But Mines just seemed to hang around. One fan likened Mines to a cancer, something that just will not go away. They did not go away, and it was a three by Green with less than five minutes to play that gave Mines a 58-56 lead, their first since an early 13-12 advantage, and they never looked back.

Orediger coach Pryor Orser was pleased with the effort, and impressed with the determination of his team despite suffering injuries throughout the season. "We had more guys in sweats than in uniforms," Orser lamented, "but they just kept believing and I'm just so proud of our guys."

Metro State suffered only their second loss in the conference and third overall as their 27-game home winning streak came to an end. The Roadrunners (15-3 overall, 8-2 RMAC) still own a two game lead in the RMAC east division over the second place Orediggers (9-9 overall, 6-4 RMAC), but the win for Mines gave them a little more breathing room over the next four teams, and this conference victory could be a huge factor at the end of the regular season.

"They did it the Mines way," concluded Orser. Not with calculators or mounds of homework, but with teamwork, determination, and perseverance. This win is beginning to make people notice the Orediggers. A school known for its excellence in the classroom is starting to impress on the court as well.

Above, Chad Lousberg (CSM) has Garret Souleau (USAFA) in a head lock.



Above, Chad Lousberg (CSM) is competing in the 133 lb weight class at the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Open hosted on campus.

ALL PHOTOS STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER

Super Bowl XLIV: David v. Goliath

Sam Schleisman
Staff Writer

In a game that proves that the NFL is no longer a league that simply runs the ball 35 times and plays defense, the team of history takes on the team of destiny. Both teams feature great, Hall of Fame-caliber quarterbacks, an average (at best) running game, and an undersized, yet opportunistic, defense. Who has the edge? According to Vegas, the Colts are a one touchdown favorite and I'm going to tell you why.

New Orleans Saints vs. Indianapolis Colts 4:45 PM Mountian Time (CBS)

Quarterbacks: Drew Brees vs. Peyton Manning. Brees is a great quarterback - he has been selected for four Pro Bowls (including this year's), was selected Offensive Player of the Year last year, and set the NFL record for completion percentage this year. Brees is good, but he is no Manning. Some are starting to put Manning in the running as the greatest quarterback *ever*. Did I mention he's only 33? Manning has proved this year, especially last week, that it does not matter who he is passing to, he is going to get his; no questions asked. Manning turned relatively unknown Pierre Garcon and fourth round pick Austin Collie into AFC Championship game heroes after his top two weapons (Reggie Wayne and Dallas Clark) were taken out of the game. Manning should have all of his weapons at his disposal this week against a soft New Orleans pass defense and he *will* take advantage.

Edge: Colts

Running Backs: Pierre Thomas and Reggie Bush versus Joseph Addai and Donald Brown. Does someone have to have an edge in this category? Both teams pass first and only run the ball when forced. The Colts were dead last in the NFL in rushing yards per game while the Saints averaged a respectable 131 per contest. I do not see either team's rushing game being a major factor in the game, but the stats do not lie.

Edge: Saints

Wide Receivers: Marques Colston and gang versus Reggie Wayne and crew. Both teams feature a star wide receiver and "everyone else." In direct comparison, Wayne is better than Colston (100 rec, 1264 yards, 10 TDs versus 70 rec, 1074 yards, 9 TDs). However, Garcon and Collie showed last week why they are better than Devery Henderson and Robert Meachem. Bush is the x-factor - he is a very athletic... quite frankly, I do not know what position to call him. The point is he is very athletic and is often frighteningly good for one or two plays. Although Bush is a game-breaker, I am not convinced he is a wide receiver.

Edge: Colts

Tight Ends: Jeremy Shockey versus Dallas Clark. If this was a, "Who is more outspoken?" or, "Who has better tattoos?" or even, "Who is more likely to say something that will get posted in the other team's locker room?" contest, then Shockey would win. Unfortunately for Shockey, I am evaluating talent; something that Shockey has not had since his days at Miami. Clark is one of the premier tight ends in the NFL and should play a large factor in the game.

Edge: Colts

Offensive Line: I could throw some names out there, but let us face it – it is the Saints' front 5 versus the Colts' front 5. The Colts led the league, giving up only 13 sacks in the regular season while the Saints also fared well, giving up only 20. As stated earlier, the Saints averaged 50 more rushing yards a game than the Colts during the regular season, and in a close game, this could be the difference. Both teams will certainly keep their MVP upright, but in a matchup of the big uglies up front, it comes down to asserting their will in the run game.

Edge: Saints

Defensive Line: Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis are arguably the best defensive end pairing in the NFL, and if Sean Payton and the New Orleans staff do not plan for them, they are likely to take over the game. New Orleans cannot stop the run and are forced to develop exotic blitz packages to get to the opposing quarterback because of their inept defensive line. NFL games, especially big ones, are usually decided in the trenches and the New York Giants showed how important a good pass rush is in '08 when they took down the invincible Tom Brady and the Patriots.

Edge: Colts

Linebackers: Jonathan Vilma and company versus Gary Brackett and company. Both units are relatively underrated as they provide their defenses with big plays in the form of interceptions and fumbles. Vilma led the Saints defense with 110 tackles and earned his second career Pro Bowl selection (although he cannot play in it because the NFL thought it was a good idea to move it to the week *before* the Super Bowl).

Edge: Saints

Defensive Backs: Darren Sharper and scrubs versus Scrubs. Sharper's career has been rejuvenated in the Big Easy. He led the league in interceptions with 9, returning 3 of those for touchdowns. Sharper will make plays while the Colts' secondary prays Freeney and Mathis can get there in time.

Edge: Saints

Special Teams: Bush is good for at least one big play a game, usually on special teams. The Colts' returners (Chad Simpson and T.J. Rushing) can be named by only avid Indy fans. The Colts' kicker, Matt Stover, is 42 years old, and come Super Bowl Sunday, will be the oldest player in the history of the Super Bowl. Garrett Hartley, the Saints' kicker, showed his clutch rating with a 40 yard field goal to send the Saints to their first Super Bowl in franchise history.

Edge: Saints

Intangibles: The Colts have been here before and Manning knows how to win the big game. The Saints are the team that is just happy to have made it this far. Even with a rookie coach in Jim Caldwell, everyone knows this is Manning's team and the experience gained from the Colts' previous Super Bowl win over the Chicago Bears will reign supreme.

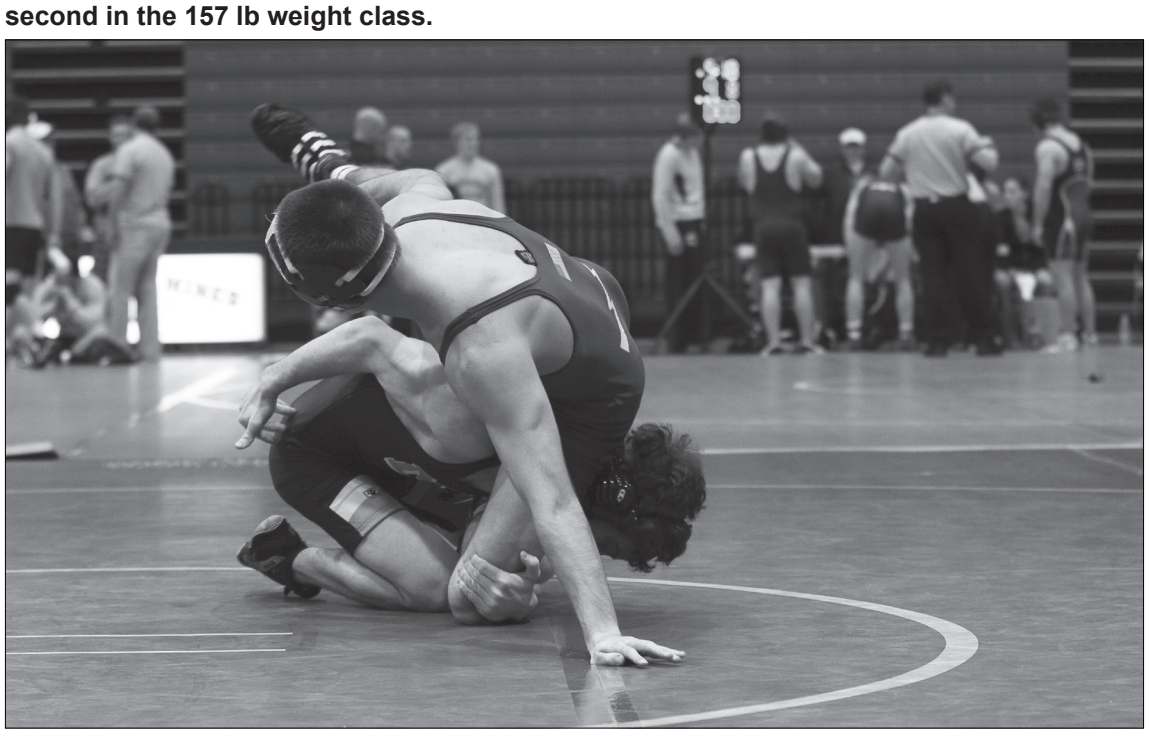
Edge: Colts

Some Interesting Storylines: A victory for the Colts will give Manning his second Super Bowl victory and place him in an elite class of only ten other quarterbacks with multiple Super Bowl victories. Caldwell is the fifth rookie head coach in NFL history to make it to the Super Bowl and would be the third to win it. A victory for the Saints would hopefully result in the National Guard being deployed to Bourbon Street before it gets burned to the ground. If the Saints could pull off the victory, Mardi Gras could be starting a month early. Finally, if all the previous analysis was not enough proof that the Saints would lose, Kim Kardashian, Bush's girlfriend, said that if the Saints won the Super Bowl, they would be getting married. Bush said that she was "just kidding," but was she? I guess we will see how hard he plays.

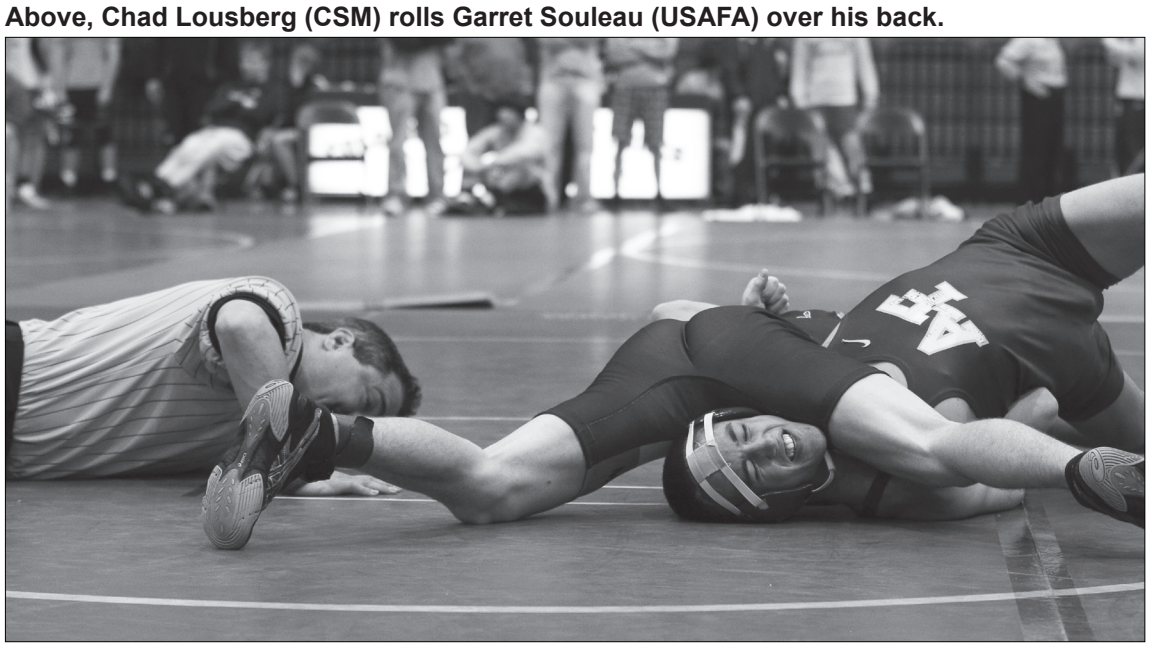
Prediction: Colts 31, Saints 23

ALL PHOTOS STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER

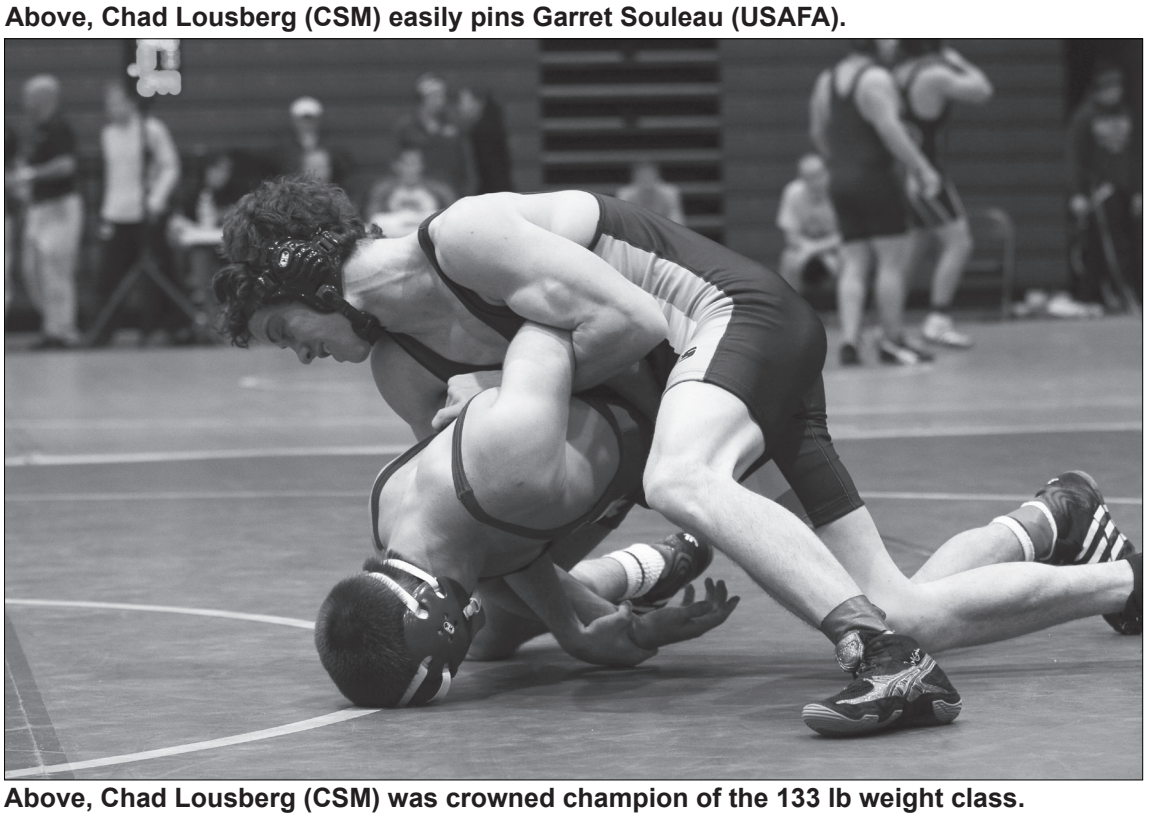
Above, Mike Brown (CSM) wrestles Darien Roberts (ASC). Mike continued on to place second in the 157 lb weight class.



Above, Chad Lousberg (CSM) rolls Garret Souleau (USAFA) over his back.



Above, Chad Lousberg (CSM) easily pins Garret Souleau (USAFA).



Above, Chad Lousberg (CSM) was crowned champion of the 133 lb weight class.

Murderball storms Mines campus

Kevin Lock
Staff Writer

The Quad Rugby Organization stopped by campus to screen the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Murderball* and to put on a small exhibition match against the CSM Rugby teams.

The documentary, *Murderball,* follows highly competitive international Paralympic athletes including Joe Soares and Mark Zupan. Zupan and Soares are both highly competitive people and they compete against each other on the international stage. When Soares was cut from the American team, he decided to go to Canada, where the sport was invented, to get revenge on the American team, for which Zupan is an integral team leader.

To play wheelchair rugby a player must have impairment in at least three of their four limbs. The impairment can range from literally having no hands and arms, that are truncated at the elbow, to loss of function in fingers. To make the game fair, each player's physical abilities are assigned a point value, ranging from 0.5 to 3.0. While a match is played, teams are only allowed to have 8 points on the court at once. The game itself is similar to basketball, with a shot clock and players have to pass or dribble every ten seconds, but it entails the contact of a rugby match. The only way to score is to cross the end-line with two wheels and the ball in your possession, while the only way to stop the other team is by running into them, either causing them to lose the ball or blocking their chair from advancing.

KEVIN LOCK / OREDIGGER

The movie chronicles the struggles of individuals as they deal with the injuries they have sustained and the drastic life changes that come with confinement to a wheelchair. Zupan and his friends are interviewed multiple times on his outlook on life both before and after the injury. The movie starts out with Zupan saying, "I will start talking s**t to somebody. When they look confused I'm like; What? You aren't gonna hit a guy in a chair? I'll f***ing hit you back!" This sets the tone for the intensity of the players and their attitude. "I may be in a chair but that isn't going to change much of the anything." Each player acts just as imagined for an international rugby team, wrestling, roughhousing and partying.

KEVIN LOCK / OREDIGGER

When *Murderball* was shown last week, I was fortunate enough to spend some time with Jason Regier, who was part of Team USA in the Beijing Paralymics. He was also one cut away from making the team chronicled in *Murderball*. Paralympics is short for parallel Olympics and it is held 12 days after the Summer Games. The Paralymics are for serious athletes who have physical disabilities. At the exhibition, Jason invited some fellow Harlequin rugby players, including Chance Sumner, who also played for team USA in Beijing, and Sebastian Scaturro, who has gained a spot on team USA following the Beijing Paralympics.

During the exhibition match, spectators were able to see the full speed version of wheelchair rugby played by members of the Harlequins, who are currently third in the nation. Each wheel chair is custom built at roughly $5000, and they take a beating! During their exhibition, the rugby team quickly came to the realization that this wasn't going to be an easy task playing these guys. "Their agility and speed in the chairs is unbelievable, they can maneuver and change directions on a dime!" exclaimed a member of the CSM Rugby team.

The collisions in the exhibition were impressive, but the real big hits came when the CSM team got on the court and tried to wheel themselves around. Many of the chairs were rather small, due to the fact that they are built for people who have no movement in their legs, which presented a challenge for a few of the bigger players. Regier had no qualms about pointing out the fact that there were some "fat men in little chairs."

Andrew Jenkins, a senior prop, was able to make a great defensive play to stop Chance Sumner from scoring. This was a great play until Sumner decided to get serious and start looking for a big hit. He circled the court like a great white ready to attack, Sumner was significantly faster than anyone else on the court. As the Mines players tried to inbounds the ball, Jenkins was able to avoid a crushing blow, but Alex Corey, AKA Blondie, took a hit full force, which actually upended him and flipped him upside down in his wheelchair. "My favorite part of the event was definitely when Blondie got rocked by the huge dude!" laughed Tony Hanneman when reflecting on the night.

When asked about the event, Regier said, "The Mines team did alright, but the big guys definitely had some trouble. I think that this gave the Mines' teams, who are elite college athletes, a whole new perspective."

There are 42 wheelchair rugby teams nationwide and the local Harlequin team is in the hunt for a national title with three players on the full national team. The Harlequin wheelchair rugby team practices in both Denver and Boulder and plays five or six tournaments around the country. They are not hosting a tournament this year due to Team USA scheduling and travel constraints because there is very little outside funding for the players. To look for more information check out the website www.quadrugby.org.

A Joyful Journey…for the most part

Sarah McMurray
Staff Writer

SARAH MCMURRAY / OREDIGGER

I stepped into the yurt and was pleased with what I saw. The website had said they provided towels and robes to guests, but the flashlight, extra blankets, tissue box, and clock were an unexpected surprise! Anticipating the need to somewhat rough it, I had brought all those things myself. All that was lacking… was heat! Indeed, even the delicious cinnamon taffy they had left on our bedspreads had turned rock hard.

A winter's night in the San Luis valley is no joke. My friend and I quickly assessed the chilly situation and plugged in the second space heater to begin warming our yurt up while we went to soak in the springs.

Yes, Joyful Journey is a pretty cheesy name for a hot spring. I thought so too the first time I heard it. But I had it on good authority from a friend who's visited many of the natural hot springs in Colorado that this was one of the best. So when Erynn flew in from Chicago and wanted to add a hot spring to her western experience, it seemed a perfect time to check this out for myself.

Hot springs have long been valued for their healing properties. Joyful Journey maintains onsite a lengthy list of all the minerals in their pools and their reputed health benefits. Their website highlights some of the significant ones, such as boron, lithium and arsenic. Lithium is said to be noted for its calming affects, as well as having the ability to influence the distribution of sodium and potassium. Boron is thought to benefit brain function, bones, joints and the immune system.

I definitely think there's some truth to this. We had spent the morning cross-country skiing in Leadville, and I was pretty sure I'd be feeling it in my hips the next day. I did some stretches and yoga poses in the pools to try to preemptively reduce my soreness (pigeon is one of my favorites). This worked better than I anticipated! The next morning I felt terrific with no soreness whatsoever.

Joyful Journey has three tiled pools at varying temperatures: warm, hot and very hot. This can range usually between 98 and 108 degrees F. The springs are located between two mountain ranges, and the hottest pool affords the best views of this amazing environment. The management has put up clear plexiglass windbreaks around this pool, affording beautiful views of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range – that is, when they aren't iced over. Unfortunately, when the temperatures are below freezing, steam from the springs tends to create a layer of ice on the plexi.

After a good long soak, we thawed the ice crystals out of our hair, warmed our frozen flip flops, and headed back to the yurt. Even with both heaters running for several hours, we weren't that warm. We figured it was just the drastic temperature change from leaving the very hot hot springs. So we warmed our undergarments on the heaters, and headed over to a friend's yurt for dinner, confident that we would return feeling more toasty.

> I slept until a gorgeous sunrise over the mountains awoke me.

Our friend's yurt certainly was cosy. Dinner was delightful and we lingered until overwhelmed by sleepiness.

It was not meant to be, however. Upon returning to fateful yurt number four, it was much colder! Both heaters were still running, but somehow the temperature actually dropped. We dressed for bed not only in night things, but in our long underwear, snow-pants and hats. I was now thrilled that I had brought extra extra blankets and we piled them all on. I huddled into the fetal position with my hat over my eyes, waiting for sleep to come.

An hour and a half later, I was angry and panicking and still freezing. I called over to Erynn, but she had fallen into some kind of hypothermic coma.

I went over to the emergency phone in the kitchenette to call the evening care takers. The phone was taken apart, and three numbers were listed for: Chris, Chris and Kris. After putting the phone back together I called all three. No answer. After a series of increasingly desperate messages I stomped back to my yurt amidst the howls of a coyote and the most gorgeous display of stars I had ever seen.

As I was weighing the options of sleeping in my car, or possibly interrupting my friends during an intimate moment to plead shelter, I spied one more number above my "heater": Jeremiah. I called. But Jeremiah didn't answer. Instead it was one of the illusive Chris, Chris or Kris's! He said he had been out with his girlfriend.

I won't hold it against him though, because he really came to the rescue. He was at the yurt in 15 minutes with a third heater. We had a long discussion with all the lights on about the possibilities of living through the night, after which, Erynn finally woke up and said "Were you talking to a man?"

I told her yes and that it was time to pack our bags. The third heater had made no difference, and Chris or Kris (but definitely not Jeremiah) was moving us into the onsite hotel.

Actually, the heater in the hotel room wasn't working properly either, but there was enough insulation that the space heater did work. After which I slept until a gorgeous sunrise over the mountains awoke me, and I went to the continental breakfast to eat an egg.

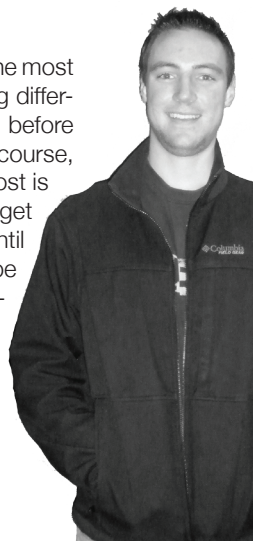
SARAH MCMURRAY / OREDIGGER

Minds at Mines

Point of no return...Census Day

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

After two weeks, it has arrived. Census Day. There is no turning back now, because the point of no return is here. (Well, there is always that last resort, the withdraw, but the exception to the rule is not always a good option. It is like your transcript is branded with a black letter…) In case it went unnoticed, Census Day occurred this year on Thursday, January 28, 2010. That means no more dropping a class, adding a class, admiring other classes… no more choices, sampling. Your schedule and you are officially wed. These past two weeks have provided a preview for the spring semester; an introduction to the good, the mediocre, the bad, and the incredibly horrendous. So Mines at Mines wanted to know: now that the classes are finalized, what are the favorite classes? The classes least looked forward to? The hardest classes?

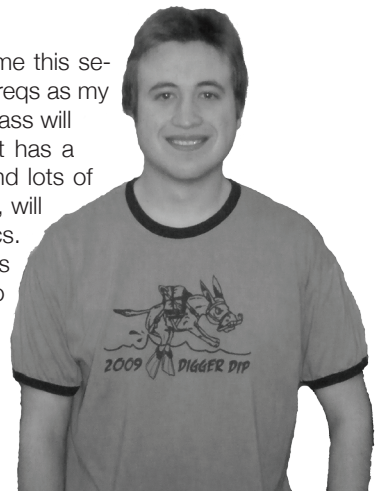


"The class I am looking forward to the most this semester is Circuits. It's something different, something that I've never done before and I think that it will be interesting. Of course, the thing I'm looking forward to the most is the end of the Semester, so that I can get to the summer and have some fun! Until then, the hardest class will probably be Programming, because me and computers just don't get along at all."

Nicholas Riggert

"I think that my least favorite will probably be Comparative Politics. My favorite class? It's always band. My hardest class? Hmmm. Probably Fluids will be my hardest class. But the teacher seems fun, so at the very least it will be an interesting class. You know it's going to be interesting when the professor asks, 'Why are the bubbles falling down instead of floating up?'"

Cassie Stember



"My classes are kind of the same this semester. Mostly I am taking my pre-reqs as my co-reqs. I guess that my hardest class will be Microstructural Development. It has a really hard lab that requires lots and lots of writing. The most fun class though, will be musculoskeletal biomechanics. We see people injure themselves and have to ask, 'Why did they do this?' Sadly, sometimes the answer is stupidity."

Brendan Casias

"I think that my favorite class is probably going to be mineralogy, even though I'm not very good at it yet. In fact, it will probably be my hardest class, but I'm looking forward to learning about it. I'm also enjoying Planetary Geology, which definitely looks fun. My least favorite class will probably be Physics, just because I can't enjoy it."

Caitlin Sellers

Why NHV contradicts principles

Kevin Barry
Guest Columnist

I have, like most students at Mines, taken Nature and Human Values (NHV), and in my opinion this course needs some serious re-evaluation and change. When I came to Mines, I was told the school's mission was: Earth - Energy - Environment. As a very firm environmentalist this was an appealing message and a part of the reason I came here. My NHV course, on the other hand, gave a very different message than this Mines mission statement.

The first lesson was all people are assumed rational and as such everyone, given the same information, will come to the same conclusion. Ignoring the irony, the class then explains there are three different theories of morality. Second, as an engineer you must be ethical and your ethics will be such as to avoid moral quandaries. In any case loopholes are easy to find. Third, while your ethics may be important to you, since you are an ethical engineer and have no money or power, then your ethics can easily be trumped by your superiors. Fourth, your superiors are not held to the same standards as you are. They really only have to sell it and support the investors, all morality aside. Fifth, since your superiors trump you and they define morality as, for all practical purposes, "cash value", then you should as well; MONEY IS MORALITY.

As if this statement was not jarring enough by itself, its end result implications are even more staggering. For example the entire issue of the commons (rivers, lakes, the land, the air, or anything owned collectively). It is far cheaper to take from and pollute the commons, than to leave things the way they were found. Under NHV's definition of morality, it is then moral to pollute the environment and take as if there was no tomorrow, as long as it's profitable this quarter. This can be repeated and rationalized the same way next quarter as well. These costs to the environment are externalized from the cost of production and sales and kept out of the record books, which allows the companies easy profits. It is and easier immediate profit, without good husbandry or stewardship, all while destroying the world around them in the process. But, since its financial implications are current and its environmental are way down the road, then there is nothing to worry about now. The moral thing to do is proceed, business as usual.

One of the lectures toward the end of the course gave me some hope, it was about the discrepancy between scientific consensus and media consensus. The media strives to be fair and balanced and give equal time to each side. This works fine for topics in politics where it is important to voice all sides, from different groups of effected people. However, when assessing scientific topics such as Global Warming, there is specialized scientific research required to even assess the issues. A strong consensus amongst these specialized Global Climate Science researchers is almost 100%; out of 999 peer-reviewed journal articles not one disagreed with another. In the media, Global Warming appears as though the debate is still ongoing and undecided. This is known as "balance as bias". By giving equal time to both sides they appear equal in strength.

Again ignoring the irony, the final paper in NHV was to right a Negotiation and Mediation paper, where you were to be unbiased, fair, and balanced. The topics you could choose from (all previous class lecture topics) were: The Politics of Coal, The Nuclear Dilemma, Human Genetic Engineering, Agriculture Biotechnology, Drilling in the Roan Plateau. All five of these issues have a much larger scientific consensus on one side or the other (granted for Human Genetic Engineering it is largely speculative), but to supporting one side or the other, even based on scientific evidence is viewed in NHV a showing bias. Facts are now bias according to NHV.

Consider a sufficiently complex problem and try to come up with a solution that will meet everyone's needs. Will it run the risk of not working? If you instead meet some needs of all of the parties, with a plan destined to fail or better yet create more problems there is no risk that the outcome, however bad, is known, so no risk. You also guarantee work for yourself tomorrow and slowly bring the entire system down; collectively this is known as a "boondoggle" as coined by Dmitry Orlov. If you attempt to "solve" enough problems with boondoggles, then you eventually reach a boondoggle horizon and no longer have the option of actually solving anything. When I tried to propose this as for my mediation paper it was shunned as "not in the spirit of the assignment".

I changed my entire premise for the paper I wrote. I choose 'The Politics of Coal" as my topic and argued support for both sides to the best of my ability. Basically: coal is cheap, abundant, traditional, and "by anybodies definition a sustainable resource". On the flipside: coal is not cheap (when all externalized costs are included), the emissions, distributed worldwide, are very radioactive (each coal fired power plant can emit to the open environment 150 times as much radiation as IS USED to generate power from all of the radioactive material used in a nuclear power plant with equal capacity), the fly ash produced in the hundreds of tons, per plant, per day is very toxic and not contained well, and the CO2 emitted is increasing the effects of Global Warming and Global Climate Change. All of these statements are true and well supported by large amounts of peer-reviewed scientific research, but apparently biased.

See oredigger.net for the rest of the article

Tim's two ¢ents

An open letter to ASCSM

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Dear Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines:

Do not take this in the wrong way, but I am lonely. Or, at the very least, I am a lonesome spectator at your meetings. If I can remember correctly, the campaigns of last spring had high hopes of increasing student participation in ASCSM activities, specifically at meetings. Rather than finding open seats in short supply, I find emptiness week-to-week.

Among all the traits that makes a governing body effective, accountability to constituents is key. Are you seeking transparency or are you just letting *The Oredigger*'s reporters provide the campus community with information on your proceedings? Where is your advertizing? How is the budget being spent? Where are my fees going? What is going on!?

You have your committees: sustainability, parking, etc. but where is the accountability committee? Those of us active in campus life can only do so much to demand accountability; the major push should be coming from within your own organization. Many ran for office under the promise of greater accountability, and I am here to ask how your own goals are coming along.

These are not failings that have no means of redemption. There are ways to get more students involved in your meetings without resorting to stirring up controversy. There are ways to boost public-relations while improving accountability.

Take some time; consider what you have accomplished this year. Is the parking situation better? Yes, I would say, we have a shiny-new dirt lot where HOJ used to be, good job. Have other aspects of campus-life improved? Yes, partially because of student government. Now take the same initiative and apply it to improving the overall role that ASCSM plays on campus. Refuse to let another un-attended meeting happen.

Sincerely,

Tim Weilert

P.S. To see the campaign promises of the 2009 ASCSM elections visit scribd.com/oredigger and read Volume 89, Issue 21.

Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

Fool's Gold

"Reading the encylopedia is back in style."

Club spotlight: social circle

Janeen Neri
Staff Writer

"It's refreshing," said new member Nicholas Harris, "when a club recognizes its true purpose and is unashamed of being known for it." The Social Circle club does just that. Unlike most clubs, which come up with an appealing front that they use to entice antisocial engineering students to come out and interact, the Social Circle club exists only for the purpose of socializing people.

A typical meeting of Social Circle involves sitting around pretending to do homework while having a conversation about insignificant topics. Somewhere in the conversation, the Wilkins (a club leader chosen biannually) says the ritual club greeting, "Hey, anyone wanna watch a movie?". This is traditionally followed by a unanimous "yes!" – if any of the members are reluctant, it is the duty of the rest of the club to convince them to come along.

The Social Circle has received commendation for being the only club that does not allow people to "lose" their membership. Said retired Wilkins, Lindsey Kane, "Just deciding to kick people out? We don't stand for that. In fact, even if a member gets too busy to attend the meetings, we still invite them to all our events. Once a member, always a member!". However, there's more to Social Circle than its events. The conversational element, in particular, "helps us prepare for the real world," said member Wesley Denisof, "because we learn how to hold a conversation about things that interest others, such as clothing, appearance, and relationship gossip. You might think otherwise, but nobody wants to engage in a philosophical debate or have to engage their mind in their interaction with you. In fact, we learn that it's best if we keep from even thinking about such topics. You never know when they might peek out, making you look like a snob." In this way, Social Circle members can develop meaningful relationships with a wide variety of people, besides having the support of other members.

> "Just deciding to kick people out? We don't stand for that. In fact, even if a member gets too busy to attend the meetings, we still invite them to all our events. Once a member, always a member!"

The core purpose of Social Circle, said Kane, is to "develop a healthy and growing social life – the most important key to our members' future success and happiness." The club meets on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 5:00 p.m., as well as for special events, scheduled at least four times a week, at the Wilkins's discretion.

Top Ten Ways to distinguish a freshman from a senior

Mike Stone
Content Manager

10) Waving and shouting "Hey!" across a crowded classroom is still funny
9) Proof of intelligence is still frowned upon
8) Smiling
7) Walks across campus include making eye contact
6) Making fun of a teacher for a whiteboard error is still "clutch"
5) Excessive absences because of a "late night" are still "ok" grade-wise
4) Their long distance relationship with the high school girlfriend at CSU is still strong
3) The "relationship" with their advisor is still one of trust
2) Not ceremonial chanting of "D for degree" has occurred yet
1) Not yet dead inside

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• Hormone-free Milk

• Do you work on Campus on Saturdays? You can now get your AFPP (afternoon face plant prevention) at the Book & Brew

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